# Case 07-14206 Doc 1 Filed 08/07/07 Entered 08/07/07 18:11:12 Desc Main Document Page 1 of 7 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

## NOTICE TO INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER DEBTOR UNDER § 342(b) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

In accordance with § 342(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, this notice: (1) Describes briefly the services available from credit counseling services; (2) Describes briefly the purposes, benefits and costs of the four types of bankruptcy proceedings you may commence; and (3) Informs you about bankruptcy crimes and notifies you that the Attorney General may examine all information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case. You are cautioned that bankruptcy law is complicated and not easily described. Thus, you may wish to seek the advice of an attorney to learn of your rights and responsibilities should you decide to file a petition. Court employees cannot give you legal advice.

#### 1. Services Available from Credit Counseling Agencies

With limited exceptions, § 109(h) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that all individual debtors who file for bankruptcy relief on or after October 17, 2005, receive a briefing that outlines the available opportunities for credit counseling and provides assistance in performing a budget analysis. The briefing must be given within 180 days <u>before</u> the bankruptcy filing. The briefing may be provided individually or in a group (including briefings conducted by telephone or on the Internet) and must be provided by a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency approved by the United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator. The clerk of the bankruptcy court has a list that you may consult of the approved budget and credit counseling agencies.

In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, an individual debtor generally must complete a financial management instructional course before he or she can receive a discharge. The clerk also has a list of approved financial management instructional courses.

#### 2. The Four Chapters of the Bankruptcy Code Available to Individual Consumer Debtors

#### <u>Chapter 7</u>: Liquidation (\$245 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee, \$15 trustee surcharge: Total fee \$299)

- 1. Chapter 7 is designed for debtors in financial difficulty who do not have the ability to pay their existing debts. Debtors whose debts are primarily consumer debts are subject to a "means test" designed to determine whether the case should be permitted to proceed under chapter 7. If your income is greater than the median income for your state of residence and family size, in some cases, creditors have the right to file a motion requesting that the court dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Code. It is up to the court to decide whether the case should be dismissed.
- 2. Under chapter 7, you may claim certain of your property as exempt under governing law. A trustee may have the right to take possession of and sell the remaining property that is not exempt and use the sale proceeds to pay your creditors.
- 3. The purpose of filing a chapter 7 case is to obtain a discharge of your existing debts. If, however, you are found to have committed certain kinds of improper conduct described in the Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your discharge and, if it does, the purpose for which you filed the bankruptcy petition will be defeated.
- 4. Even if you receive a general discharge, some particular debts are not discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still be responsible for most taxes and student loans; debts incurred to pay nondischargeable taxes; domestic support and property settlement obligations; most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; certain debts which are not properly listed in your bankruptcy papers; and debts for death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs. Also, if a creditor can prove that a debt arose from fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, or theft, or from a willful and malicious injury, the bankruptcy court may determine that the debt is not discharged.

## <u>Chapter 13</u>: Repayment of All or Part of the Debts of an Individual with Regular Income (\$235 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee: Total fee \$274)

- 1. Chapter 13 is designed for individuals with regular income who would like to pay all or part of their debts in instalments over a period of time. You are only eligible for chapter 13 if your debts do not exceed certain dollar amounts set forth in the Bankruptcy Code.
- 2. Under chapter 13, you must file with the court a plan to repay your creditors all or part of the money that you owe them,

using your future earnings. The period allowed by the court to repay your debts may be three years or five years, depending upon your income and other factors. The court must approve your plan before it can take effect.

3. After completing the payments under your plan, your debts are generally discharged except for domestic support obligations; most student loans; certain taxes; most criminal fines and restitution obligations; certain debts which are not properly listed in your bankruptcy papers; certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury; and certain long term secured obligations.

#### Chapter 11: Reorganization (\$1000 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee: Total fee \$1039)

Chapter 11 is designed for the reorganization of a business but is also available to consumer debtors. Its provisions are quite complicated, and any decision by an individual to file a chapter 11 petition should be reviewed with an attorney.

#### Chapter 12: Family Farmer or Fisherman (\$200 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee: Total fee \$239)

Chapter 12 is designed to permit family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time from future earnings and is similar to chapter 13. The eligibility requirements are restrictive, limiting its use to those whose income arises primarily from a family-owned farm or commercial fishing operation.

### 3. Bankruptcy Crimes and Availability of Bankruptcy Papers to Law Enforcement Officials

A person who knowingly and fraudulently conceals assets or makes a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury, either orally or in writing, in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to a fine, imprisonment, or both. All information supplied by a debtor in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the United States Trustee, the Office of the United States Attorney, and other components and employees of the Department of Justice.

**WARNING:** Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information regarding your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. Your bankruptcy case may be dismissed if this information is not filed with the court within the time deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the local rules of the court.

#### Certificate of [Non-Attorney] Bankruptcy Petition Preparer

I, the [non-attorney] bankruptcy petition preparer signing the debtor's petition, hereby certify that I delivered to the debtor this notice required by § 342(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Printed Name and title, if any, of Bankruptcy Petition Preparer Address:	Social Security number (If the bankruptcy petition preparer is not an individual, state the Social Security number of the officer,
X	principal, responsible person, or partner of the bankruptcy petition preparer.) (Required by 11 U.S.C. § 110.)
Signature of Bankruptcy Petition Preparer of officer, principal, responsible person, or partner whose Social Security number is provided above.	_
Certificate of the Debtor	

I (We), the debtor(s), affirm that I (we) have received and read this notice.

Thomas, Deborah A.	X /s/ Deborah A. Thomas	8/07/2007
Printed Name(s) of Debtor(s)	Signature of Debtor	Date
Case No. (if known)	X	
	Signature of Joint Debtor (if any)	Date

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Case 07-14206 Doc 1 (Official Form 1) (04/07)		Entered 08/ Page 3 of 7	/07/07 18:11:1	2 Desc Main
	es Bankruptcy Co n District of Illinoi	ourt		Voluntary Petition
Name of Debtor (if individual, enter Last, First, Middle <b>Thomas, Deborah A.</b>	3):	Name of Joint Debto	or (Spouse) (Last, First,	Middle):
All Other Names used by the Debtor in the last 8 years (include married, maiden, and trade names):			ed by the Joint Debtor in aiden, and trade names):	•
Last four digits of Soc. Sec. No./Complete EIN or othe than one, state all): 7388	r Tax I.D. No. (if more	Last four digits of So than one, state all):	oc. Sec. No./Complete E	EIN or other Tax I.D. No. (if more
Street Address of Debtor (No. & Street, City, State & 2 10234 S. Rhodes Ave.	Zip Code):	Street Address of Jo	int Debtor (No. & Stree	t, City, State & Zip Code):
Chicago, IL	ZIPCODE <b>60628</b>	ZIP		ZIPCODE
County of Residence or of the Principal Place of Busin <b>Cook</b>	ess:	County of Residence	e or of the Principal Plac	ce of Business:
Mailing Address of Debtor (if different from street add	ress)	Mailing Address of	Joint Debtor (if differen	t from street address):
[2	ZIPCODE			ZIPCODE
Location of Principal Assets of Business Debtor (if diff	ferent from street address abo	ove):		
				ZIPCODE
Type of Debtor (Form of Organization) (Check one box.)  ✓ Individual (includes Joint Debtors) See Exhibit D on page 2 of this form.  Corporation (includes LLC and LLP) Partnership Other (If debtor is not one of the above entities, check this box and state type of entity below.)  Filing Fee (Check one box)  ✓ Full Filing Fee attached  Filing Fee to be paid in installments (Applicable to in attach signed application for the court's consideration is unable to pay fee except in installments. Rule 100 3A.  Filing Fee waiver requested (Applicable to chapter 7	ndividuals only). Must n certifying that the debtor 6(b). See Official Form	Entity pplicable.) organization under tates Code (the Check one box: Debtor is a small Debtor is not a sn Check if:	the Petition  Chapter 7 Chapter 9 Chapter 11 Chapter 12 Chapter 13  Debts are primarily debts, defined in 11 § 101(8) as "incurr individual primarily personal, family, or hold purpose."  Chapter 11 D  business debtor as definall business debtor as defined than \$2,190,000.	I U.S.C. business debts. ed by an y for a house-
attach signed application for the court's consideration. See Official Form 3B.		A plan is being filed with this petition  Acceptances of the plan were solicited prepetition from one or more classes of creditors, in accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 1126(b).		
	excluded and administrative litors.  5,001- 10,001- 25,00	expenses paid, there w	vill be	ACE IS FOR COURT USE ONLY
	0,000 25,000 50,00		0,000	
	00,000 to			

□ \$0 to

Estimated Liabilities

\$100,000

□ \$50,000 to

\$100,000 to

\$1 million

□ \$1 million

\$100 million

 $\square$  More than

\$100 million

Debtor has included in this petition the deposit with the court of any rent that would become due during the 30-day period after the filing

Filed 08/07/07

Document

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Desc Main

FORM B1, Page 2

of the petition.

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(Official Form 1) (04/07)

#### Voluntary Petition

(This page must be completed and filed in every case)

Name of Debtor(s):

Thomas, Deborah A.

#### **Signatures**

#### Signature(s) of Debtor(s) (Individual/Joint)

Doc 1

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this petition is true and correct.

[If petitioner is an individual whose debts are primarily consumer debts and has chosen to file under Chapter 7] I am aware that I may proceed under chapter 7, 11, 12 or 13 of title 11, United State Code, understand the relief available under each such chapter, and choose to proceed under chapter 7.

[If no attorney represents me and no bankruptcy petition preparer signs the petition] I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

X /s/ Deborah A. Thomas

Signature of Debtor

Deborah A. Thomas

Х

Signature of Joint Debtor

Telephone Number (If not represented by attorney)

August 7, 2007

#### Signature of Attorney

X /s/ Veronica D. Joyner, Esq. Signature of Attorney for Debtor(s)

Veronica D. Joyner, Esq. 6239246

Printed Name of Attorney for Debtor(s)

Joyner Law Office Veronica D. Joyner, Esq.

120 South State Street, Ste. 200

Chicago, IL 60603

(312) 332-9001

Telephone Number

August 7, 2007

Date

#### Signature of Debtor (Corporation/Partnership)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this petition is true and correct, and that I have been authorized to file this petition on behalf of the debtor.

The debtor requests relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

Signature of Authorized Individual

Printed Name of Authorized Individual

Title of Authorized Individual

Date

#### Signature of a Foreign Representative

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this petition is true and correct, that I am the foreign representative of a debtor in a foreign proceeding, and that I am authorized to file this petition.

(Check only **one** box.)

I request relief in accordance with chapter 15 of title 11, United
States Code. Certified copies of the documents required by 11 U.S.C.
§ 1515 are attached.

Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1511, I request relief in accordance with the
chapter of title 11 specified in this petition. A certified copy of the
order granting recognition of the foreign main proceeding is attached.

X

Signature of Foreign Representative

Х

Printed Name of Foreign Representative

Date

#### **Signature of Non-Attorney Petition Preparer**

I declare under penalty of perjury that: 1) I am a bankruptcy petition preparer as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 110; 2) I prepared this document for compensation and have provided the debtor with a copy of this document and the notices and information required under 11 U.S.C. §§ 110(b), 110(h) and 342(b); 3) if rules or guidelines have been promulgated pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 110(h) setting a maximum fee for services chargeable by bankruptcy petition preparers, I have given the debtor notice of the maximum amount before preparing any document for filing for a debtor or accepting any fee from the debtor, as required in that section. Official Form 19B is attached.

Printed Name and title, if any, of Bankruptcy Petition Preparer

Social Security Number (If the bankruptcy petition preparer is not an individual, state the Social Security number of the officer, principal, responsible person or partner of the bankruptcy petition preparer.) (Required by 11 U.S.C. § 110.)

Address

Χ

Signature of Bankruptcy Petition Preparer or officer, principal, responsible person, or partner whose social security number is provided above.

Date

Names and Social Security numbers of all other individuals who prepared or assisted in preparing this document unless the bankruptcy petition preparer is not an individual:

If more than one person prepared this document, attach additional sheets conforming to the appropriate official form for each person.

A bankruptcy petition preparer's failure to comply with the provisions of title 11 and the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure may result in fines or imprisonment or both 11 U.S.C. § 110; 18 U.S.C. § 156.

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Case No. \_\_

IN RE Thomas, Deborah A.

Debtor(s)

## **VOLUNTARY PETITION Continuation Sheet - Page 1 of 1**

Prior Bankruptcy Case Filed Within Last 8 Years:

**Location Where Filed: Northern District Of Illinois** 

Case Number: 04 B 17856 Date Filed: 5/6/2004

**Location Where Filed: Northern District Of Illnois** 

Case Number: 05 B 48253 Date Filed: 10/11/2005

**Location Where Filed: Northern District Of Illinois** 

Case Number: 05 B 01222 Date Filed: 1/14/2005

**Location Where Filed: Northern District Of Illinois** 

Case Number: 05 B 19101 Date Filed: 5/12/2005

Case 07-14206 Official Form 1, Exhibit D (10/06)

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Document Page 7 of 7 **United States Bankruptcy Court** 

**Northern District of Illinois** 

IN RE:		Case No.
Thomas, Deborah A.		Chapter 13
	Debtor(s)	•

### EXHIBIT D - INDIVIDUAL DEBTOR'S STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CREDIT COUNSELING REQUIREMENT

Warning: You must be able to check truthfully one of the five statements regarding credit counseling listed below. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file a bankruptcy case, and the court can dismiss any case you do file. If that happens, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors will be able to resume collection activities against you. If your case is dismissed and you file another bankruptcy case later, you may be required to pay a second filing fee and you may have to take extra steps to stop creditors collection activities.

Every individual debtor must file this Exhibit D. If a joint petition is filed, each spouse must complete and file a separate Exhibit D. Check one of the five statements below and attach any documents as directed.

1. Within the 180 days <b>before the filing of my bankruptcy case</b> , I received a briefing from a credit counseling agency approved by the United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator that outlined the opportunities for available credit counseling and assisted me in performing a related budget analysis, and I have a certificate from the agency describing the services provided to me. Attach a copy of the certificate and a copy of any debt repayment plan developed through the agency.
2. Within the 180 days <b>before the filing of my bankruptcy case</b> , I received a briefing from a credit counseling agency approved by the United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator that outlined the opportunities for available credit counseling and assisted me in performing a related budget analysis, but I do not have a certificate from the agency describing the services provided to me. You must file a copy of a certificate from the agency describing the services provided to you and a copy of any debt repayment plan developed through the agency no later than 15 days after your bankruptcy case is filed.
3. I certify that I requested credit counseling services from an approved agency but was unable to obtain the services during the five days from the time I made my request, and the following exigent circumstances merit a temporary waiver of the credit counseling requirement so I can file my bankruptcy case now. [Must be accompanied by a motion for determination by the court.][Summarize exigent circumstances here.]

If the court is satisfied with the reasons stated in your motion, it will send you an order approving your request. You must still obtain the credit counseling briefing within the first 30 days after you file your bankruptcy case and promptly file a certificate from the agency that provided the briefing, together with a copy of any debt management plan developed through the agency. Any extension of the 30-day deadline can be granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days. A motion for extension must be filed within the 30-day period. Failure to fulfill these requirements may result in dismissal of your case. If the court is not satisfied with your reasons for filing your bankruptcy case without first receiving a credit counseling briefing, your case may be dismissed.

4. I am not required to receive a credit counseling briefing because of: [Check the applicable statement.] [Must be accompanied by motion for determination by the court.]
☐ Incapacity. (Defined in 11 U.S.C. § 109(h)(4) as impaired by reason of mental illness or mental deficiency so as to be incapable of realizing and making rational decisions with respect to financial responsibilities.);
Disability. (Defined in 11 U.S.C. § 109(h)(4) as physically impaired to the extent of being unable, after reasonable effort, t participate in a credit counseling briefing in person, by telephone, or through the Internet.);
Active military duty in a military combat zone.
5. The United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator has determined that the credit counseling requirement of 11 U.S.C. § 109(bdoes not apply in this district.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided above is true and correct.

Signature of Debtor:	/s/ Deborah A. Thomas	

Date: August 7, 2007